



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
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Inquiry: Licensed respiratory therapist are allowed to suction, change trach dressings, set-up and deliver prescribed oxygen therapy as are licensed registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses. Can any other non-licensed caregivers perform the above noted procedures in an acute or subacute facility? If so, would you please provide me with a list of these positions and any relevant training information.

Response: Regarding the above-mentioned procedures constitute the practice of respiratory care, therefore, these procedures must be implemented only by personnel who are appropriately licensed to provide these services . Further, the Respiratory Care Practice Act (RCPA) authorizes the practice of respiratory care by licensed respiratory care practitioners and other licensed health care personnel whose overlapping scope of practice includes the practice of respiratory care or components thereof. The practice of respiratory care, in California, by unlicensed persons is prohibited.

Reference # 2001-C-31